GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:746
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005
DAMAGE DUE TO FOREST FIRE
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government has made any assessment of the damage caused by forest fire in the country during the last three years ;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons attributed thereto ;

(c) whether any action plan has been prepared to avoid such forest fires specially in the hill areas ;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to save the flora and fauna in the country particularly in hill regions from devastating forest fires ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARIAN MEENA)

(a)&(b) The monitory losses reported by State Governments/UTs on account of damage caused by the forest fires are indicated Annexure-I. However these losses do not include intangible losses such as loss of biodiversity, loss of soil fertility, damage to re generation, adverse impact on environment etc.Almost all the forest fires are man made (intentional or unintentional). Intentional fires are set in the forest for various reasons such as collection of minor forest produce, to get fresh

ii succulent grasses or to propitiate, the local deity etc.

(c)&(d) Integrated Forest Protection Scheme, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme has Forest fire Control and Management as one of the component.Central Assistance under the scheme is provided to States/ UTs to take up effective measures for prevention and control of forest fires, such as creation and maintenance of fire lines, fire ; watchers, water harvesting structures, field vehicles, assistance to village forest committees, etc. During last three years, the funds released to the States and UTs under IFPS are as indicated below:

Year	Funds Released (Rs.in crores)
2002-03	45.82
2003-04	24.08
2004-05	54.00

(e) Does not arise.